I found the Quail a common species on the grassy slopes of the northern face of Fujiyama. By the beginning of June the birds had paired, but they apparently had not commenced to lay their eggs, as I found on dissecting a female that I shot. When flushed, two birds would nearly always rise together, shewing that the sexes keep in very close proximity at this season. The call of the Japanese Quail in no way resembles the melodious *whit, whit* of *C. communis*, and is a harsh, unmusical cry, impossible to express on paper.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV.

Fig. 1. Egg of *Phylloscopus coronatus*, p. 142.
2, 3. „ *Geocichla varia*, p. 132.
4. „ *Gallinago australis*, p. 165.
5. „ *Xanthopygia narcissina*, p. 140.
6. „ *Larvivora cyane*, p. 137.
7 „ *Parus varius*, p. 147.
8, 9. „ *Emberiza yessoensis*, p. 155.
10. „ *Urosphena squamiceps*, p. 144.

VI.—*Obituary.* Mr. Howard Saunders, Dr. Rudolph Blasius, and Professor Nation.

1. Mr. Howard Saunders.—It is seldom that the Members of our Union—and, above all, the Editors—have to deplore the loss of so well-tried and trusty a friend as their late Secretary, Mr. Howard Saunders, whose death will be acutely felt, not only by his friends in England and abroad, but by many a London scientific society. Noted as a traveller and an ornithologist he was a conspicuous figure among the zoologists of the Metropolis, and his writings, marked as they were by exceptional care and accuracy, will serve as a model for many future generations. He spared no pains to make his own work as perfect as possible, and was never known to refuse his aid, in the interests of science, to those occupied in similar pursuits, while his various activities were only terminated by his death, which occurred at his London residence, 7 Radnor Place, W., on

October 20th, at the age of 72 years, after a long illness borne with the greatest fortitude.

The son of Alexander and Elizabeth Saunders, he was born in London on Sept. 16th, 1835, and received his early education at Leatherhead and Rottingdean, subsequently to which he entered the office of Anthony Gibbs & Sons, merchants and bankers in the City. The foreign associations of that well-known firm soon caused his thoughts to turn in the direction of South America, and, being naturally of an adventurous and energetic disposition, in 1855 he determined to leave England, on a journey to Brazil and Chile. In 1856 he rounded Cape Horn on the way to Peru *, where he resided continuously until 1860. That country offered to an explorer, and particularly to an ornithologist, magnificent opportunities of which Saunders was not slow to avail himself, while, not content with these, he occupied his time to a considerable extent with antiquarian researches in the interior. On quitting Peru he crossed the Andes, struck the head-waters of the Amazon, and descended that river to Pará, the journals kept during this notable expedition enabling him in 1881 to contribute to 'The Field' a series of articles entitled "Across the Andes." The revolutionary spirit of many towns in South America at that epoch constituted a very serious danger, in addition to the usual risks of a wild and little-known country, but Saunders's courage was by no means the least characteristic of his qualities.

In 1862 he returned to England, but only to devote most of his time until 1868 to the investigation of the Avifauna of Spain, a subject on which he soon became our recognised authority. Articles from his pen referring to this part of his career will be found in 'The Ibis' for 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1878; while he wrote in a more popular style for 'The Field' in 1874 his "Ornithological Rambles in Spain and Majorca." In 1868 he married Emily, the daughter of Mr. William Minshull Bigg, of Stratford Place, and took up his residence in England; but he still found time to continue

* His first contribution to 'The Ibis' was on the Albatrosses noticed on this voyage ('Ibis,' 1866, p. 124).

his continental expeditions, the results of which are incorporated in papers to 'The Ibis' on the birds of the Pyrenees in 1883–4 and those of Switzerland in 1891, while in 1893 these were followed by an account of "The Distribution of Birds in France."

Saunders was an active Member of the Zoological, Linnean, and Royal Geographical Societies, and was in much request as a Member of Committees and Councils; he was a Vice-President of the first-named and in close touch with the Gardens at Regent's Park, where he took a strong interest in the animals and their management. He was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1870, and in 1901 entered upon the office of Secretary, a post which he held till his death. He was also the first Secretary and Treasurer of the British Ornithologists' Club, when that offshoot from the parent stem was founded in 1892. The fifth and seventh series of 'The Ibis' were issued under his editorship, conjointly with Sclater; while from 1877 to 1881 he acted as the Recorder of "Aves" for the 'Zoological Record,' and from 1880 to 1885 as Secretary of Section D (Zoology) at the meetings of the British Association. In 1884 he edited Vieillot's 'Analyse' for the Willughby Society, and during his whole career in England he was a regular reviewer of books on Natural History, Sport, and Travel, especially for the 'Athenæum.' A paper on the eggs obtained by the Transit of Venus expedition of 1874–5 appeared in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1879, and the portion of the 'Antarctic Manual' referring to the Birds came from his pen in 1901. He was actively concerned in the Bird-Department of the Fisheries Exhibition in London in 1883, while he always kept in close touch with the Naturalists of the United States, where he was an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Saunders had a world-wide reputation as an authority on the family *Laridæ* (Gulls and Terns), and published important papers on it in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1876–8, and the 'Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology)' for 1878, hence he was naturally

selected to write the portion of the twenty-fifth volume of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum' which deals with this group. But to the public in general he will always be best known as the Editor, in 1884–5, of the last two volumes of the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds,' commenced by Professor Newton, and as the author of that most excellent work 'An illustrated Manual of British Birds,' issued in 1889, wherein was included not only the whole essence of 'Yarrell,' but a large amount of fresh information, though two pages only were given to each species. The value of this volume to Palæarctic Ornithologists was speedily made evident by the call for a second edition in 1899, after which date Saunders continued to keep up a constant correspondence with those who recorded additions to the British List, as published by himself in 1887, and the last article from his pen was one dealing with this subject in the new periodical entitled 'British Birds.'

The death of our Secretary will, however, be felt most particularly by his friends and fellow-workers, to whom he was always accessible and whose writings he was invariably willing to revise; in fact the correction of the proofs of others consumed a large portion of his time in later life. Kind and helpful as he was, we cannot end our notice without once more expressing our great sense of the loss that we and others have sustained.

2. Dr. Rudolph Blasius.—Although not a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, like his brother Professor Wilhelm Blasius, Dr. Rudolph Blasius was well known in England, so that his friends, who deeply sympathize with the sad loss of this eminent ornithologist, will be glad to have some particulars about his life. Paul Heinrich Rudolph Blasius was born on the 25th of November, 1842, at Braunschweig, the eldest son of the famous Professor of Zoology, Johann Heinrich Blasius († 1870), in his time a prominent authority on palæarctic ornithology and well known by his standard work 'Fauna der Wirbelthiere Deutschlands' (1857), of which unfortunately only the "mammals" ever appeared.

Shortly after taking his degree as Dr.Med., Rudolph Blasius was attached to the Medical Service in the war of 1866 and afterwards in that of 1870/71, when he was promoted to be "Stabsarzt" (Surgeon-Major) and awarded the "iron-cross."

After the last war Blasius left the military service and in 1874 settled in his native city as a physician. Taking Hygiene as his special study, he was elected, in 1879, Professor of this science and of Bacteriology at the Ducal Technical High School (Carolo-Wilhelmina). Although most actively engaged in this line, as well as in literature and in public lectures, Blasius further utilised his position for the benefit of his birthplace by becoming, by the confidence of his fellow-citizens, in 1879, a member of the municipal assembly and later on an alderman of the City.

It is wonderful how Blasius, notwithstanding all these pressing duties, managed to do actual work also in Ornithology, to which, educated in that science when a boy by his father, he was deeply attached. His doctoral dissertation on the structure of the egg-shell * dealt with this science, but he subsequently produced a great number of papers, partly concerning his various travels in many parts of Europe and partly on the subject of migration. When the first International Ornithological Congress was held at Vienna in 1884, under the auspices of Crown-Prince Rudolph of Austria, and a "Permanent International Ornithological Committee" was founded, Blasius was chosen President of this loosely organised institution, and, along with Professor von Hayek of Vienna, edited the new quarterly Journal 'Ornis' until 1891. This periodical contains several papers by Blasius, who also contributed largely to the 'Neue Naumann,' as the new edition of the classical work of the celebrated original author is called. Last, but not least, Blasius was also for many years President of the "Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft" at Berlin, and was always working for the protection of birds and animals in general.

* 'Ueber die Bildung, Struktur und systematische Bedeutung der Eischale der Vögel' (1866).

Being a constant member or delegate of various Associations and Congresses, Blasius became well acquainted with many scientific men at home and abroad, and was everywhere much esteemed for his joviality and good humour, and as an amiable companion and true friend. Married in 1869 to a congenial, high-born lady (Mally Hausmann), who repeatedly accompanied him in his travels, Blasius enjoyed a most happy and untroubled family life, blessed by four children and a number of grandchildren. Of an excellent constitution, Blasius was by no means of sedentary habits, but liked exercise and sporting, often going deer-stalking and elk-shooting in the woods of Esthonia. All those who met Blasius during the late International Ornithological Congress in London (1905) will remember him as of a type of health which promised undoubted longevity. Scarcely ever previously ill, in the beginning of May last Blasius was struck down by a heavy attack of broncho-pneumonia complicated by pleuritis, but happily recovered. He had intended to join his brother at the end of July in visiting the International Zoological Congress at Boston (U.S.A.), but a relapse interfered with this plan and ended his life on the 31st of September.

Two days before his brother returned from America the funeral of Rudolph Blasius had taken place, and an attendance of all classes proved how much and how deeply the loss of this prominent and deserving citizen was felt. Our science also will not fail to miss him.—O. F.

3. Professor W. Nation, C.M.Z.S.—William Nation was born, of humble parents, in 1826, at Staplegrove, near Taunton in Somersetshire, and brought up as a gardener. In 1840, having passed the necessary examination, he was appointed one of the garden-staff at the Royal Gardens at Kew. Here he remained till 1849, when his good conduct and general knowledge of plants, together with a desire to visit foreign countries, caused him to be sent out to Lima as a plant-collector. After several years of exploration of the rich forests on the eastern side of the Andes, during which he sent many botanical specimens to Europe, Nation

settled at Lima, and was made Professor of Languages and Natural History in the National College at Guadelupe near that city. He also became an active contributor on scientific subjects to one of the leading journals of the Peruvian capital. Having transmitted some living animals to the Zoological Society of London, Nation was elected a Corresponding Member of that Society in 1865, and shortly afterwards commenced a series of communications on the birds of the vicinity of Lima, which he sent to Sclater, at that time Secretary to the Society, along with specimens of the species to which they related. These communications were published in the Society's 'Proceedings' from 1866 to 1885 *. His last communication to the Zoological Society was received in 1890, when he forwarded a small collection of birds' bones obtained from the Peruvian nitrates. In the spring of last year Prof. Nation, being sadly out of health, determined to return to England, but had a rough voyage, and reached his native land, after 57 years' absence, in a very feeble state. Sclater visited him in July last, while he was staying with some relatives at Clapham, and found him slightly improved in health for the time. But this improvement did not last, and he died on October the 19th, at his friends' house, at the age of 81 years. His name is commemorated in Science by two Peruvian birds which he discovered and which Sclater named after him—*Myiobius nationi* and *Pyrgisoma nationi*.

VII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. *Balston, Shepherd, and Bartlett on Kentish Birds.*

[Notes on the Birds of Kent. By R. J. Balston, C. W. Shepherd, and E. Bartlett. London: R. H. Porter, 1907. Pp. i–xx, 1–465; with nine plates and a map.]

It is somewhat difficult to give a correct idea of the contents of this volume, which we hail with pleasure as the first attempt to write a systematic account of the

* See P. Z. S. 1866, p. 96; 1867, p. 340; 1869, p. 146; 1871, p. 496; 1881, p. 484; and 1885, p. 277.